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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/234,351 01/20/99 WILLIAMS

M WILLIAM-2

EXAMINER

TM02/1010

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NGUYEN, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176  
DATE MAILED:

10/10/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/234,351

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, MARVIN L.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

### ***DETAILED ACTION***

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed on 01/20/1999.
2. Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent claims.

### ***Specification***

3. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:  
“further comprising further causing” (line 2, page 26) should be “further comprising causing”.  
Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Birrell et al** (U.S 6,029,164).

**As to independent claim 1**, Birrell teaches an electronic mail program (e-mail; col.4, lines 21-31), a system (the mail service system; col.4, lines 6-15) for establishing relationships between hypertext references (a displayed message contains any “hot-links”; col.11, lines 54-63) contained in e-mail messages (email messages; col.4, lines 21-31) received by the e-mail program, comprising:

- a message parser ( the message can be parsed; col.10, lines 36-48 / new messages received by the mail service system are stored, parsed in the message files; col.11, lines 29-38) that locates hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages (messages; col.11, lines 4-17) received by the e-mail program; and

- a message organizer (organizing e-mail messages so that they can readily be located and retrieved; col.4, lines 16-31) that allows a user (users; col.4, lines 5-20) to choose to display the first and second e-mail messages in an order that is based on the hypertext references.

**As to dependent claim 2**, Birrell teaches the message organizer further causes the e-mail program to display a message field containing the hypertext references (col.12, lines 1-13).

**As to dependent claim 3**, Birrell teaches the first e-mail message is selected from the group consisting of: a direct e-mail message, and a newsgroup posting (col.1, lines 33-38).

**As to dependent claim 4**, Birrel teaches the hypertext references have associated viewing statuses, the message organizer identically marking viewing statuses of identical ones of the hypertext references (col.10, lines 1-48).

**As to dependent claim 5**, Birrell teaches the message parser parses the hypertext references to determine relationships therebetween (col.7, lines 12-52 & col.12, lines 1-14).

**As to dependent claim 6**, Birrell teaches the hypertext references are uniform resource locators (col.12, lines 1-14).

**As to dependent claim 7**, Birrell teaches the message organizer allows the user to view referenced resources according to the order (col.10, lines 1-7).

**As to dependent claim 8**, Birrell teaches a browser and the message organizer is capable of employing the browser to view information associated with the hypertext references (col.12, lines 1-67).

**As to dependent claim 9**, Birrell teaches the browser is capable of paging between pages of information associated with the hypertext references of the message organizer and the browser identically marks viewing statuses of identical ones of the hypertext references (col.10, lines 1-8 / col.11, lines 54-63).

**Independent claim 10** is for a method presenting the system of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Dependent claims 11-18**, Birrell teaches the same subject matters as in claims 2-9, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Independent claim 19** is directed to a program for performing the system of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

However, the claim 19 further recites:

- a message receiver;
- a message transmitter coupled to the message receiver;
- a message composer coupled to the message transmitter;
- a message store coupled to the message composer.

Birrell teaches:

- a message receiver (the messages were received; col.11, lines 4-38 / the message has been received; col.12, lines 38-44)
- a message transmitter (send a message; col.14, lines 50-54) coupled to the message receiver;
- a message composer (compose begins a new message; col.14, lines 15-33) coupled to the message transmitter; and
- a message store (new messages are stored; col.11, lines 29-38) coupled to the message composer.

**As to dependent claims 20-27**, Birrell teaches the same subject matters as in claims 2-9, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Billmers	U.S Patent No. 6,266,630	issued dated: May 1, 2001
Birrell et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,185,551	issued dated: Feb. 6, 2001
Lee et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,212,553	issued dated: Apr. 3, 2001
Higley	U.S Patent No. 5,790,793	issued dated: Aug. 4, 1998

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-0092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30am – 6:00 pm. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-5403 for regular communications and (703) 308-5403 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

**Contact Information:**

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Art Unit: 2176

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or fax to:**

AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746-7238.

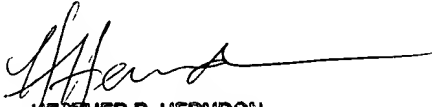
OFFICIAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746-7239.

NON OFFICIAL faxes should be sent to (703) 746-7240.

All OFFICIAL faxes will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. The date of entry will correspond to the actual FAX reception date unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, in which case the official date of receipt will be the next business day. The application file will be promptly forwarded to the Examiner unless the application file must be sent to another area of the Office, e.g., Finance Division for fee charging, etc.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist). All hand-delivered responses will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. Please do not hand deliver responses directly to the Examiner.

Maikhanh Nguyen  
October 9, 2001

  
HEATHER R. HERNDON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100